

Wednesday 10/14/20

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Peace, Transparency & No Littering: NASA Issues New Lunar Rules Ahead of Artemis Missions by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

The US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced on Tuesday a new set of lunar rules that would be imposed as part of the agency's Artemis moon-landing program, an effort to put astronauts back on the moon by 2024.

NASA's new guidelines state all countries involved in the program must come in peace; be transparent with all their projects and identify and register launched objects; be willing to assist in astronautical emergencies; preserve historical lunar sites, such as Apollo 11's Tranquility Base; dispose of any space junk in a safe manner; design space systems to be compatible with all equipment; and avoid the ill-placement of a rover or spacecraft that may jeopardize another partner's mission.

Any countries that violate the accords will be asked to depart from the program.

"Fundamentally, the Artemis Accords will help to avoid conflict in space and on Earth by strengthening mutual understanding and reducing misperceptions. Transparency, public registration, deconflicting operations – these are the principles that will preserve peace," Mike Gold, NASA acting associate administrator for international and interagency relations, [said in a statement](#).

"The Artemis journey is to the moon, but the destination of the Accords is a peaceful and prosperous future."

Aside from the US, the countries that have signed the Artemis Accords are Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates and the UK.

Jim Bridenstine, the US space agency's administrator, has indicated that he believes additional countries will join the program. In fact, Bridenstine recently stated that he remained hopeful that [Russia would decide to take part in the efforts](#).

However, Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Russia's Roscosmos space agency, [previously noted in a July interview](#) that he felt the Artemis efforts were "more of a political project for the US," and that, simply put, Moscow is "not interested in participating in such a project."

It's worth noting that reports have emerged that Russia is [considering building a joint lunar base with China](#), instead. Rogozin [has stated](#) that the "Chinese have grown tremendously in the last few years," adding that both countries are only working on the "first steps" of their effort.

The last manned mission to the moon was NASA's Apollo 17, which took place in December 1972 and wound up setting a handful of records, such as completing the most lunar orbits and logging the longest single surface excursion, among others.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Kayaker Gets Smacked by Dolphin - Video Club

A kayaker minding their own business while traversing the waters off Lewes, Delaware, recently received quite the surprise when a dolphin decided to make a sudden leap over their kayak. Video footage obtained by ViralHog captures the kayaker initially paddling through the water when - out of nowhere - a bottlenose dolphin leaps over the nose of the craft before smacking the kayaker in the face.

In a statement to the outlet, the dolphin-slapped individual noted that the incident unfolded at Cape Henlopen State Park. "What fun!" the kayaker remarked.

Dolphin 1; Kayaker 0.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Air Force Confirms ARRW Hypersonic Missile Will Travel Over 5,000 Miles Per Hour by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

A senior US Air Force official confirmed earlier this month that the forthcoming AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid-Response Weapon (ARRW) hypersonic missile will travel between 5,000 and 6,000 miles per hour. He also said a smaller "Mayhem" missile is in the works.

During an [October 1 interview with Air Force Magazine](#), Maj. Gen. Andrew Gebara, Air Force Global Strike Command's director of strategic plans, programs and requirements, gave the outlet the first public information about the speed of the Pentagon's first hypersonic weapon. "This thing is going to be able to go, in 10-12 minutes, almost 1,000 miles," Gebara said. "It's amazing." That translates to between 5,000 and 6,000 miles per hour, or between 6.5 and 7.5 times the speed of sound. A device is defined as hypersonic if its speed exceeds Mach 5.

While captive-carry tests with the ARRW have been going on since June 2019, the first live-fire launch of the weapon isn't scheduled until October 2021, [according to The Drive](#).

Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Gen. Timothy M. Ray further told the outlet the ARRW, which would be the Pentagon's first operational hypersonic weapon, would achieve initial operational capability within "the next couple of years." The weapon will [uniquely be carried by the B-52 Stratofortress](#) strategic bomber, which has received a host of new upgrades allowing it to fire the long-range missile.

Still, the ARRW's speed is a far cry from that achieved by either of Russia's two operational hypersonic weapons: [the Kinzhal missile, a direct comparison to the ARRW](#), has a stated speed of Mach 10 (7,600 miles per hour), and [the Avangard hypersonic glide body](#), a slightly different kind of system, can reportedly achieve the astonishing speed of Mach 20 (15,300 miles per hour). A third weapon, [the Zircon hypersonic anti-ship missile](#), was tested last week and achieved a speed of Mach 8.

Sergei Surovikin, commander of the Russian Aerospace Forces, [has claimed the new S-500 air defense system can intercept hypersonic weapons](#), but with a reported upper range of 370 miles, an ARRW traveling at Mach 7 could close the gap with the launch system in just four minutes, meaning the S-500 would have to act fast and shoot faster.

Gebara also mentioned a smaller weapon he called “Mayhem,” noting it would be [based on the Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept](#) (HAWC) the Air Force is developing in conjunction with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

[DARPA announced a successful captive-carry test](#) of two versions of the HAWC in September, which it noted will provide the US with “an effective and affordable air-launched hypersonic cruise missile.” Gebara said the weapon will be carried by either fighter aircraft or bombers. While the Air Force says it has no interest in placing nuclear warheads on top of hypersonic weapons, the service’s new nuclear-tipped cruise missile, the [AGM-181 Long-Range Stand-off \(LRSO\) missile](#), is expected to be operational by the late 2020s, Gebara said. Little is known about the highly classified weapon, except that, [like with the ARRW, the huge B-52 bomber will be the sole carrier](#) of the LRSO into combat.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Photos: US Navy Wants to Lease Norway’s Abandoned Submarine Cave Base on Barents Sea by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US Navy wants to lease an abandoned Norwegian cave base on the edge of the Barents Sea to run submarine patrols on Russia’s doorstep, according to a recent report.

Norwegian public broadcasting outlet [NRK reported on October 10 that Oslo and Washington](#) could ink a deal for the US Navy to use the Olavsvern naval base, located near the northerly city of Tromsø, before the week is out.

The Norwegians started building the base in the Balsfjorden inlet in the 1960s, but it wasn’t completed until after the Cold War was over, and was subsequently [sold to one private owner after another](#). However, with the United States once again looking to turn up the heat on Moscow, Washington has shown interest in putting the base to use.

NRK noted the facility is presently controlled by a group of Tromsø stakeholders, the most prominent of which is the city’s mayor, Gunnar Wilhelmsen, but another company, WilNor Governmental Services, could take over at the end of the year. According to NRK, the US’ potential deal is with WilNor.

Norwegian Minister of Defense Frank Bakke-Jensen told NRK the Norwegian Armed Forces have also considered using Olavsvern for storage.

The cavernous facility, dug out of solid rock underneath a mountain, has a variety of valuable facilities for US Navy submarines. The facility includes 270,000 square feet of space, including 32,000 square feet of deep-water docking space, a dry dock and other maintenance facilities, a barracks, storage areas and of course, nearly 900 feet of solid rock above, to protect it from any attack, [according to The Drive](#).

At present, the Navy is forced to bring aboard supplies and personnel by small watercraft in the nearby Malangen fjord. [The US Navy's secretive USS Seawolf](#) nuclear attack submarine was spotted in August paying a visit to the fjord. Observers were puzzled by the sub's appearance, as it was far from its normal base in the Pacific and is believed to contain a slew of sensitive monitoring equipment, but many [concluded it was intended as a public signal to Russia](#). Sputnik reported at the time on the renewed interest shown by Washington in the icy Barents Sea, a span of cold water between Svalbard, Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya and the northernmost parts of Scandinavia. [When NATO warships sailed there in May 2020](#), it was the first time in 40 years for a western warship.

Norway isn't the only country with naval bases nestled inside mountains like some kind of James Bond villain hideout: [China's Yulin Naval Base sits on southern Hainan Island](#), opening up to the South China Sea, and Sweden built a base for submarines and destroyers [at Muskö, on the Baltic Sea, that it recently reactivated](#). The Soviet Union had a cave base, too: the Balaklava facility in Crimea, which is now a museum.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Outrage Ensues After Facebook, Twitter Block Sharing of New York Post's Hunter Biden Story by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

After the New York Post dropped a bombshell story about Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden's son Hunter's Ukrainian business dealings on Wednesday, social media giants Facebook and Twitter rushed to limit its spread, prompting accusations of censorship and in-kind aid to Joe Biden.

On Wednesday, the New York Post threw gasoline onto the smoldering coals of the Ukraine affair that led to US President Donald Trump's impeachment trial in January, publishing a story titled "[Hunter Biden emails show leveraging connections with his father to boost Burisma pay](#)." However, as the story gained traction on social media, Facebook and Twitter moved to limit its spread.

Several hours after the Post's story was published, Facebook spokesperson Andrew Stone tweeted they would be "reducing its distribution on our platform" while the social media giant's third-party fact-checkers verified the story was accurate.

"This is part of our standard process to reduce the spread of misinformation," Stone added. "We temporarily reduce distribution pending fact-checker review."

Twitter, however, took it a step further: by the early afternoon, users who attempted to post a link to the Post story were greeted with the error message saying "Something went wrong, but don't fret - let's give it another shot."

Meanwhile, attempting to click on tweets of the story posted earlier in the day caused the following message to appear: "[Warning: this link may be unsafe](#)," followed by a list of the company's rules and regulations.

The Post's original tweet of the story was removed completely, with Twitter claiming [the nation's fourth-largest-circulating newspaper](#) had "violated the Twitter rules," and an attempt by the

outlet's editors to repost the story was totally halted, with a message saying the link "has been identified by Twitter or our partners as being potentially harmful."

Twitter and Facebook's silencing of the story's spread aroused fury among conservatives, with Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) each sending letters of complaint about the incident to various authorities; Cruz's note went straight to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Hawley sent letters to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) [as well as Twitter](#).

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump's reelection campaign adopted a novel solution to the story's censoring by tweeting out its contents in a Twitter thread, 280 characters at a time: [Trump's "war room" campaign Twitter account directly accused](#) Facebook of "rigging the election for Joe Biden," saying the social media giant was "actively interfering in the election." The president also inveighed against Twitter and Facebook on his own personal account, calling for repeal of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which gives website publishers broad - but not unlimited - protection from the consequences of third-party content on their site.

Later on Wednesday, Trump's campaign reported that White House Press Secretary Kelly McEnany had her Twitter account locked, with the company claiming she had posted "hacked material" that "may put people in physical harm or danger, or contains trade secrets."

The story purports to reveal emails sent by Hunter Biden to a business partner at gas firm Burisma Holdings in April 2014, just months after the February coup in Kiev orchestrated by the United States. In the emails, which were supposedly found on a MacBook Pro laptop abandoned at a Delaware computer shop, Hunter seems to leverage the fact that his father, Joe Biden, was at the time the US vice president and would be visiting Kiev soon.

Biden's campaign weighed in on the Post's story as well, saying the outlet never asked about the story's central elements and that the meeting it reported did not happen.

In 2019, attempts by Trump to get Kiev to reopen a 2015 probe into Hunter's business dealings eventually led to Trump's impeachment for abuse of power, and his efforts were decried by detractors as an attempt to influence the 2020 presidential race, in which Joe Biden is running against Trump. Supporters of the president, however, pointed to the potential corruption such a probe might unveil.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US University Warns Students May Intend to Contract COVID-19 to Sell Antibody-Rich Plasma

Brigham Young University-Idaho, a private university in Rexburg, Idaho, recently warned students against intentionally trying to contract COVID-19 in order to make money by donating antibody-rich plasma.

In an [October 12 statement](#), the university said that it is "deeply troubled" by reports that some individuals have "intentionally exposed themselves or others to COVID-19, with the hope of getting the disease and being paid for plasma that contains COVID-19 antibodies."

"The university condemns this behavior and is actively seeking evidence of any such conduct among our student body. Students who are determined to have intentionally exposed

themselves or others to the virus will be immediately suspended from the university and may be permanently dismissed," the statement added.

The university also noted in its statement that it may be forced to transition to a "fully-remote instruction model" if the number of [COVID-19 cases on campus](#) and in the surrounding area continues to increase.

Convalescent plasma is a treatment technique that uses plasma donated from survivors of the novel coronavirus to treat patients currently suffering from the respiratory disease. Doctors can isolate antibodies in plasma - the liquid component of blood - and then inject those antibodies into sick patients.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for convalescent plasma as a COVID-19 treatment on August 23, [saying in a release](#) that the technique may be effective in "lessening the severity of shortening the length of COVID-19 illness in some hospitalized patients."

"The agency also determined that the known and potential benefits of the product, when used to treat COVID-19, outweigh the known and potential risks of the product and that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternative treatments," the release noted.

On September 2, the FDA [released additional guidance](#) outlining recommendations to health care advisors on the use of convalescent plasma to help treat COVID-19.

In August, US President Donald Trump falsely stated that convalescent plasma treatment for COVID-19 was "[proven to reduce mortality by 35%.](#)" Stat News reported at the time. However, according to [FactCheck.org](#), there's no evidence that the method is that effective.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'My Fear Came True': Melania Trump Reveals Son Barron Tested Positive for COVID-19

First lady Melania Trump revealed in a statement Wednesday that her 14-year-old son, Barron, tested positive for COVID-19.

In the [statement](#), Melania revealed that her son initially tested negative following her and US President Donald Trump's positive diagnoses. However, following multiple tests, Barron eventually tested positive.

"To our great relief he tested negative, but again, as so many parents have thought over the past several months, I couldn't help but think 'what about tomorrow or the next day?'. My fear came true when he was tested again and it came up positive," Melania explains.

She also adds that Barron is a "strong teenager" and "exhibited no symptoms."

While talking to reporters Wednesday, Trump said his son was "fine" when asked about his son's diagnosis. He also revealed that Barron is currently testing negative for the novel coronavirus.

Melania also recalls her experience with COVID-19 in the statement noting that her "diagnosis came with minimal symptoms" that included a cough, body aches, headaches and fatigue.

"I chose to go a more natural route in terms of medicine, opting more for vitamins and healthy food. We had wonderful caretakers around us and we will be forever grateful for the medical care and professional discretion we received from Dr. Conley and his team," the first lady noted. Melania also notes that she hopes to resume her duties soon.

"I want people to know that I understand just how fortunate my family is to have received the kind of care that we did. If you are sick, or if you have a loved one who is sick—I am thinking of you and will be thinking of you every day. I pray for our country and I pray for everyone who is grappling with COVID-19 and any other illnesses or challenges," she added.

Trump on October 2 revealed that both he and his wife had tested positive for COVID-19. Soon after his positive diagnosis, Trump was admitted to the Walter Reed Medical Center. He was discharged from the hospital three days later.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Finland May Impose Six-Month Prison Sentence for Sending Unsolicited Sexual Images

Officials in Finland have proposed updating sexual offense laws so that unsolicited explicit photographs could be punishable by up to six months behind bars.

According to Justice Ministry spokesperson Sami Kiriakos, the draft legislation would expand the definition of sexual harassment to include "harassment verbally, through pictures or messages, taking photos of another or exposing oneself," [AFP reported](#).

The punishment could range from a fine to a prison sentence depending on the severity of the offense.

Under Finland's current laws, sexual harassment only involves physical touch. While explicit photographs can be sometimes prosecuted under defamation laws, they are not currently considered sexual harassment in the Nordic country. The proposed law will be submitted to the government "sometime next year," Kiriakos confirmed to AFP.

Various studies have revealed the prevalence of online harassment, which includes the sending of unsolicited sexual images.

In a recent [global survey](#), children's rights charity Plan International found that 58% of the 14,000 girls and young women surveyed said they have experienced online sexual harassment. "These attacks may not be physical, but they are often threatening, relentless, and limit girls' freedom of expression. Driving girls out of online spaces is hugely disempowering in an increasingly digital world, and damages their ability to be seen, heard and become leaders," the organization [concluded in a news release](#).

Such studies suggest that sexual harassment should be "dealt with in law," Kiriakos explained. "The studies based on questionnaires show that sexual harassment is quite common and that the victims of this type of behavior are most often female, so it is very relevant to consider how it should be dealt with in law," Kiriakos said.

Other countries have already taken similar steps to outlaw online sexual harassment. Scotland in 2010 banned the sending of unsolicited sexual photos, whereas the US state of Texas instituted a \$500 fine last year for sending unsolicited sexual images, AFP reported.

However, many other countries have not followed suit, especially because of the issues that can arise in enforcing such laws

"These types of offenses, or virtually anything that occurs on the web, may be very difficult to investigate," Kiriakos explained, though he added that "investigative authorities do have coercive measures which apply to sexual offenses if certain conditions are met, such as access to telecommunications data."

Finland is also in the process of redrafting its legal definition of rape to mean sex without consent rather than sex in the presence of physical violence or the threat of physical violence, which is the current legal definition.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Record Breaking' Ocean Temperatures Kill Half of Great Barrier Reef's Corals- Study

A new study published this week in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B reveals that ocean warming has killed half of the coral in Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

According to the [study](#), conducted by four Australian researchers who have been monitoring coral abundance since 1995, large coral colonies in the reef's northern area have declined in abundance by up to 98% in that time. There was a slight, 25% increase in coral on the southern slope, however.

"The decline occurred in both shallow and deeper water, and across virtually all species - but especially in branching and table-shaped corals," Terry Hughes, co-author of the study, [told the Washington Post](#). "These were the worst affected by record breaking temperatures that triggered mass bleaching in 2016 and 2017."

"The only effective way to improve the outcome for coral reefs is global action on greenhouse gasses. If global temperatures rise to 3 or 4 [degrees Celsius], the reef will be unrecognizable, so there is no time to lose," Hughes added.

Andreas Dietzel, another co-author of the study, told the Post that coral recovery is occurring "very slowly."

"Corals are tremendously resilient because of their capacity to produce millions of babies but they/we desperately need a break from disturbances," Dietzel added.

According to the [US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reefs, because high ocean temperatures cause mass coral bleaching events, during which coral polyps expel algae from their tissues, turning completely white.

In addition, global warming leads to increased absorption of carbon dioxide into the ocean, which reduces calcification rates in reef-building organisms by changing seawater pH levels through ocean acidification.

In June, US and Australian environmental groups [urged the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) to place the Great Barrier Reef on the body's "in danger" list after the structure [suffered its third mass bleaching event](#) in just five years.

During the summers of 2016 and 2017, about two-thirds of the reef was damaged by severe bleaching outbreaks. In 2019, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [revealed that the reef's outlook](#) had been downgraded from "poor" to "very poor" for the first time.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Not a Body Double': Navy SEAL Claps Back at Trump Over QAnon Theory on Osama bin Laden Death
by [Evan Craighead](#)

The retired US Navy SEAL credited with the assassination of al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden is speaking out after US President Donald Trump amplified a baseless conspiracy theory suggesting that former US President Barack Obama's administration actually staged a fake operation, complete with a bin Laden body double.

"Very brave men said goodbye to their kids to go kill Osama bin Laden. We were given the order by President Obama. It was not a body double," Robert O'Neill, the former Navy SEAL who [allegedly killed bin Laden](#) in a 2011 raid, [tweeted on Tuesday](#). "Thank you Mr. President. Happy birthday @USNavy."

"S**t. I just found out that I killed Osama bin Johnson. Drinks are on me, I guess..." he [added in a tweet later that day](#).

O'Neill's comments followed the US president's Tuesday decision to retweet a post from a since-deleted account with reported ties to QAnon, the pro-Trump conspiracy theory movement. Trump previously attacked Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden regarding the 2011 raid by SEAL Team 6.

"He opposed the mission to take out Osama bin Laden," Trump [said of his political rival](#) on September 17.

"If it were up to Joe, bin Laden and [Iranian Maj. Gen. Qasem] Soleimani would still be alive, ISIS [Daesh] would be still on the rampage, and China would now be the dominant power in the world – not America."

O'Neill continued to subtweet Trump and his Republican supporters in a series of tweets issued on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Despite being an alleged war hero, the former Navy SEAL has received a lot of negative press in recent years for his [2016 DUI arrest](#), which [resulted in lessened charges](#), and [alleged belligerent behavior](#) on a flight in 2018.

O'Neill was most recently banned from Delta Air Lines planes after he posted a picture of himself not wearing a mask during a flight, [the Associated Press reported](#).

"Thank God it wasn't @Delta flying us in when we killed bin Laden... we weren't wearing masks..." he said in a later tweet.

"Part of every customer's commitment prior to traveling on Delta is the requirement to acknowledge our updated travel policies, which includes wearing a mask," the airline said in a statement, as reported by AP. "Failure to comply with our mask-wearing mandate can result in losing the ability to fly Delta in the future."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Pure Insanity': Netizens Up in Arms After Amy Coney Barrett Forgets First Amendment Freedom
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Judge Amy Coney Barrett's failure to name all five freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment to the US Constitution has left many netizens baffled and furious as the Supreme Court nominee's confirmation hearing continues before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Netizens' jaws were left on the floor Wednesday after Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) asked Barrett to enumerate the five freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment. What many would view as a softball question turned out to actually stump the woman vying for a lifetime appointment on the US Supreme Court.

"Speech, religion, press, assembly," said Barrett, counting the freedoms on her fingers. "I don't know, what am I missing?"

"Redress or protests," responded Sasse.

Netizens were quick to comment on Barrett's forgetfulness, and many called out the fact that she had been lauded for her [presumed intelligence and sharp memory](#) after [displaying a blank notepad](#) during Tuesday's hearing.

Amy Coney Barrett:

- Can't tell you the 5 Freedoms in the 1st Amendment
- Doesn't know it is illegal to commit Voter Intimidation
- Won't tell you it is unconstitutional to unilaterally postpone the Presidential Election
- Can't remember if she met with Trump before nomination



— Private Joker, USMC (@Infantry0300) [October 14, 2020](#)

During Wednesday's confirmation hearing, Barrett admitted she ["did have a glass of wine"](#) Tuesday night. "I will tell you that I needed that at the end of the day," she said with a laugh.

"Let me just say on that kind of point you have a right to remain silent," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), evoking laughter from the nominee and the others in the hearing.

Some netizens felt as if Barrett should have put a cork in it, especially after she appeared to misspeak, vowing to "approach every case with an open wine - open mind."

Others, however, appeared to be in agreement with Barrett.

The fourth day of Barrett's confirmation hearing is scheduled to begin Thursday at 9:00 a.m. local time.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Elevated Levels of Radiation Found Near US Fracking Sites - Study

by [Evan Craighead](#)

A new study finds that radiation levels of airborne particles increase significantly downwind of US hydraulic fracturing sites.

Harvard research published Wednesday in peer-reviewed scientific journal [Nature Communications](#) states: "our results suggest that an increase in [particle radioactivity] due to the extensive [unconventional oil and natural gas development (UOGD)] may cause adverse health outcomes in nearby communities."

The UOGD practice is also known as fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, which involves the breaking of bedrock formations with a pressurized liquid in the hopes of extracting oil or natural gas.

The research found that locations within 12 miles (20 kilometers) downwind of 100 fracking sites had about 7% higher radiation levels when compared to normal background levels.

"If you asked me to go and live downwind [of fracking sites], I would not go. People should not go crazy, but I think it's a significant risk that needs to be addressed," study lead Petros Koutrakis, of the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, [expressed to The Guardian](#).

"The increases are not extremely dangerous, but could raise certain health risks to people living nearby," he [said to Reuters](#).

"Our hope is that once we understand the source more clearly, there will be engineering methods to control this."

Koutrakis explained to the outlet that it is likely that naturally-occurring radioactive material is being disturbed in the ground and brought to the surface during the hydraulic fracturing process. "We shouldn't ask how airborne radioactive risk from fracking compares to the waterborne risk," Koutrakis asserted to The Guardian. "We should ask if it's a good idea to add radioactive particulates to either air or water. This study suggests that the answer is no."

The issue of fracking recently came up amid the ongoing 2020 American presidential election season as US President Donald Trump [erroneously suggested](#) that Democratic presidential nominee and former US Vice President Joe Biden would put forth a total ban on fracking.

"I am not banning fracking. Let me say that again: I am not banning fracking." Biden [said during a late August](#) speech in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "No matter how many times Donald Trump lies about me."

In addition to the Harvard research, scientists with the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) have "found scientific evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources under some circumstances."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Twitter Says Site Censored New York Post's Hunter Biden Story for 'Hacked Materials' Inside
by [Evan Craighead](#)

Twitter has issued a clarification on its “Hacked Materials Policy” following fallout from the social media platform’s decision to block two New York Post articles about Hunter Biden. However, some netizens are arguing the platform has not been consistent with its application of the rule. “We want to provide much needed clarity around the actions we’ve taken with respect to two NY Post articles that were first Tweeted this morning,” Twitter Safety [tweeted Thursday night](#). “The images contained in the articles include personal and private information - like email addresses and phone numbers - which violate our rules.”

This announcement came hours after [Twitter users were blocked](#) from tweeting out a link to a [New York Post article](#) titled “Hunter Biden emails show leveraging connections with his father to boost Burisma pay.”

Facebook also limited the distribution of the article on its platform.

“As noted this morning, we also currently view materials included in the articles as violations of our Hacked Materials Policy,” noted Twitter Safety in the Thursday night thread. “Commentary on or discussion about hacked materials, such as articles that cover them but do not include or link to the materials themselves, aren’t a violation of this policy. Our policy only covers links to or images of hacked material themselves.”

The safety arm of the social media platform went on to claim that the policy was “established in 2018” and “prohibits the use of our service to distribute content obtained without authorization.” “We don’t want to incentivize hacking by allowing Twitter to be used as distribution for possibly illegally obtained materials,” it added.

Twitter’s announcement of this alleged longstanding rule prompted the responses of many netizens, some of whom attempted to cast a light on the platform’s selective censorship. Under Twitter’s current policy, the terrorist Ayatollah of Iran can threaten genocide against the only Jewish country on earth, while the President of the United States of America is banned from linking to a story in an American newspaper founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1801.

— Sean Davis (@seanmdav) [October 14, 2020](#)

“Our communication around our actions on the @nypost article was not great,” Dorsey tweeted alongside the Twitter Safety announcement. “And blocking URL sharing via tweet or DM with zero context as to why we’re blocking: unacceptable.”

The tech giant’s decision to block the story prompted [Sen. Ted Cruz \(R-TX\)](#) and [Sen. Josh Hawley \(R-MO\)](#) to issue letters to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and the Federal Election Commission, respectively.

[US President Donald Trump](#) and [Rep. Jim Jordan \(R-OH\)](#), the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, also spoke out against the censorship and called for the repeal of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which protects internet platforms from legal liability for third-party content, treating them as distributors rather than publishers of information.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Study Finds COVID-19 Patients Retain Immunity at Least 5 Months After Infection

A new study has shed light on how long someone's immunity to COVID-19 lasts after contracting the virus.

According to research published Tuesday [in the journal Immunity](#), individuals who contract COVID-19 produce "high-quality" antibodies against the coronavirus for five to seven months afterward.

Researchers from the University of Arizona Health Sciences studied antibody production among almost 6,000 people who recovered from the respiratory illness and found that "immunity persists for at least several months after being infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19," said a [Monday release from the university](#).

The 5,882 volunteers who participated in the study underwent antibody testing using a blood test developed by University of Arizona Health Sciences starting on April 30.

The findings suggest that people who contract the coronavirus can potentially develop a long-lasting immunity to it afterward.

"We clearly see high-quality antibodies still being produced five to seven months after SARS-CoV-2 infection," said lead researcher Deepta Bhattacharya, an associate professor in the Department of Immunobiology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson, [UPI reported](#).

"Many concerns have been expressed about immunity against COVID-19 not lasting. We used this study to investigate that question and found immunity is stable for at least five months."

The researchers found that SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are present in patients' blood at viable levels for at least five to seven months after infection, although they believe immunity lasts much longer.

"When a virus first infects cells, the immune system deploys short-lived plasma cells that produce antibodies to immediately fight the virus," the university release noted. "Those antibodies appear in blood tests within 14 days of infection. The second stage of the immune response is the creation of long-lived plasma cells, which produce high-quality antibodies that provide lasting immunity."

"This research not only has given us the ability to accurately test for antibodies against COVID-19, but also has armed us with the knowledge that lasting immunity is a reality," said study co-author Dr. Michael Dake, senior vice president of University of Arizona Health Sciences.

"The latest time-points we tracked in infected individuals were past seven months, so that is the longest period of time we can confirm immunity lasts," Bhattacharya said. "That said, we know that people who were infected with the first SARS coronavirus, which is the most similar virus to SARS-CoV-2, are still seeing immunity 17 years after infection. If SARS-CoV-2 is anything like the first one, we expect antibodies to last at least two years, and it would be unlikely for anything much shorter."

According to Bhattacharya and his colleagues, earlier studies assessed antibody production at around the time of infection and suggested that antibody levels drop quickly after a patient's bout with the coronavirus, providing only short-term immunity to it. However, those findings may have only been based on levels of short-lived plasma cells, discounting the effects of long-lived plasma cells and the high-affinity antibodies they produce.

"Whether antibodies provide lasting protection against SARS-CoV-2 has been one of the most difficult questions to answer," noted Dake.

"This research not only has given us the ability to accurately test for antibodies against COVID-19, but also has armed us with the knowledge that lasting immunity is a reality."